**Utilisation of foodgrains by Bihar**

†2441. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other States the foodgrains are lifted by Bihar in less quantity against that allocated and earmarked but only 25 per cent of foodgrains actually reaches the real beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the beneficiaries in the State are not able to get full allocated foodgrains through Public Distribution System under various schemes of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the scheme-wise details thereof and the action Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Governments/UTs. While it is the duty of the Central Government to provide foodgrains to the States/UTs, it is for the State Governments to lift the foodgrains and distribute the same to the targeted beneficiaries under TPDS. The offtake of foodgrains by the various State Government/UTs depends upon various factors like local availability of foodgrains, prices prevalent in the local market, food preferences of the people etc. The allocation of foodgrains to all States, including Bihar, is made by the Central Government under TPDS @ 35 kg per family, per month on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission during 1993-94 and population projection by the Registrar General of India as on 31.3.2000 or actual ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. The off-take of foodgrains by the State of Bihar during 2005-06 (Up to January 2006) under TPDS was 22.21% [95.2% Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY), 30.4% for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 0.85% for Above Poverty Line (APL)] against the national average of about 40% (85.09% for AAY, 74.6% for BPL and 16.9% for APL).

(b) and (c) The offtake of foodgrains under AAY has been about 95% which is considered satisfactory. Besides AAY, the State Government has given priority to implementation of Annapurna Scheme under which

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the offtake during 2005-06 (upto January, 2006) is about 61%. However, for BPL category under TPDS, the offtake has been 30.4% for which the State Government has been asked to take all possible measures to remove the bottlenecks and make TPDS a success in real terms.

A system to monitor distribution of foodgrains under TPDS is already in place. Planning and dispatch of the required number of rakes of foodgrains is made by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) every month for each consuming State/UT at an optimally feasible level, within the constraints of availablity of rakes and other logistics in order to adequately cater to the requirements of each State/UT under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes and with the aim of building up and maintaining the stocks level equivalent to three month's average requirement (Two months in respect of North-East Region). On receipt of any report regarding depletion of stock, the FCI is advised to prioritize the induction of rakes to such State/UT and whenever required, the Railway Board is also requested to take appropriate remedial action to augment the supply and induction of the rakes.

The Central Government has also taken the following measures to ensure that the foodgrains reach the beneficiaries in the States/UTs:—

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(ii) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administration have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit.

(iii) The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS.

(iv) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Government/UT Administration.

(v) Under the Area Officers Scheme, the Senior Officers of the Government visits their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT for taking necessary action.

(vi) In the Regional Conferences held recently at Mumbai, Shimla, Thiruvanathapuram, Kolkata and Guwahati, the State Government/UTs were requested to take immediate necessary steps to curb diversion, through inspections, computerization and effective implementation of PDS (Control) Order.

A statement showing details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes of the Government in respect of Bihar during 2005-06 (Upto January, 2006) is enclosed.

***Statement***

*Details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes in respect of Bihar during 2005-2006 (Upto Jan. 06)*

(In '000 tonnes)

| Schemes | Allocation | Offtake |
|---|---|---|
| Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) | 4108.99 | 912.46 |
| Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) | 218.07 | 123.89 |
| Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) | 388.07 | 277.92 |
| Welfare Institutions and Hostels (WIH) | 44.00 | 0.01 |
| Annapurna | 20.00 | 12.39 |
| National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) | 104.34 | 86.92 |
| Other Welfare Schemes | 9.00 | 0.24 |